## Virginia Gerena Public Health Committee Hearing January 30, 2007

Good morning Public Health Committee members. My name is Ginny Gerena I am an Advocacy Unlimited Graduate. I would like to propose an implementation for the Universal Health Care Plan. Any health plan should have Mental Health Parity. Comparable Mental Health Benefits should be added to the Health Benefits. It must maintain Connecticut's current Mental Health Mandate and not weaken Medicaid Coverage.

In my own personal health coverage, I find that Medicaid is lacking, first because of the Spend down, which hardly anybody understands, and second because it is hardly accepted by health care facilities and providers. Something must be done to improve this situation. Especially when the UHC Plan should have not only Mental Health Coverage, but also Dental and Chiropractor Provider coverage. I would like this to be as an important amendment to this plan. Thank you for your attention.

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